

## ALL DAY WITH THE BIRDS.

---

The first attempt to determine how many species of birds could be found in a single day in Lorain County, Ohio, was made on May 17, 1898, by Mr. W. L. Dawson and the writer, which resulted in a record of 102 species. May 8, 1899, witnessed the experiment repeated, but on that day Mr. Dawson could not continue the work after 8 A. M. The day's record was 112. There have been two days devoted to this object during 1900; the first on May 5, by Mr. R. L. Baird and the writer, the second on May 19, by the writer alone. The May 5 record is 93, the May 19 record is exactly 100. The smallness of these two records is largely accounted for by the state of the weather. May 5 opened with a temperature of 30° and heavy frost, with a brisk north-east wind blowing; consequently there was not much movement among the birds. The 19th opened at a temperature of 50° with a strong north-east wind and fine penetrating rain for the whole morning, driving the birds to the dense underbrush where the foliage and the dark morning conspired to effectually hide them from view. The early morning work was disappointing in the extreme. The reader will remember that the 1898 and 1899 records were made under some difficulties, especially in the way of wet roads which made the use of wheels impracticable, but on neither occasion was the temperature low, nor was there any appreciable wind. There is probably little likelihood of being able to take advantage of an ideal day for this work, if indeed there should ever be one. However, if the first half of May could be spent entirely with the birds it is more than likely that a more favorable time would be found than any yet taken advantage of. But that is a dream for which there is no likely fulfilment.

A comparison of the species seen on these four occasions proves not a little interesting, especially so as the range of time covers no less than fourteen days in May. If it were possible to give an accurate summary of the weather for the first two weeks or more of May for these three years, this comparison would throw some light upon the influence of the weather upon the several species of late migrants, but that is

**Blackburnian Warbler.** *Dendroica blackburnia*. 662.

We might reasonably expect this rather large Warbler to favor us with a robust song. On the contrary, he seems unable to produce more than a shrill, thin song, which runs up the scale to end in a high *z*. I can recall it by the syllables *tswe tswe tswe, te ze ze z-z*. Mr. Minot detects some difference between the spring and summer songs. The summer song is a repetition of the syllables *wee-see*, with the accent on the second; while the spring song is more ambitious: *wee-see, wee-see, tsee-tsee, tsee, tsee, tsee-tsee, tsee, tsee*, ending shrill and fine. While the song differs in execution from the Yellow Warbler it yet retains somewhat of that character, and should form the beginning of the transition to the Chippy type.

Blackburnian is not a persistent singer, and may sometimes pass northward in almost silence. He has not been heard singing during the return journey.

This promethean presence gleams from the upper foliage of trees, but delights in the shade trees of parks and lawns fully as much as the wood-land, usually shunning the deeper woods. His is a familiar presence on the Oberlin campus during the early days of May.

Eastern North America, west to eastern Kansas and Manitoba, breeding from the northern United States northward to Labrador.

